

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 06519 142141Z

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9665

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: SNAR, CO

SUBJ: FUNDING FOR PROPOSED MOVE MISSION NARCOTICS OPERATIONS
TO NEW QUARTERS

ACTION REQUESTED: S/NM FUNDING PER ESTIMATES BELOW SUPPORT
SECRETARIAL AND OTHER COSTS INVOLVED IN IMPEDING (SEP-
TEMBER 1975) MOVE NARCOTICS COORDINATOR AND SENIOR AID
NARCOTICS ADVISOR TO NEW QUARTERS IN COMPANY WITH DEA.
COST ITEMS INCLUDE PROVISION FOR FSS-9 LEVEL AMERICAN
SECRETARY CEILING, DOLLAR 3, 000 COVER NARCOTICS ADVISOR/
SECRETARY'S YEARLY SHARE OF DEA-LEASED OFFICE SPACE
AND DOLLAR 3,000 FOR ONE-TIME PURCHASE OFFICE FURNITURE
AND FURNISHINGS.

1. PRESENT OFFICE SPACE ARRANGEMENTS FOR MISSION NARCOTICS
OPERATIONS ARE EXTREMELY AKWARD LEADING TO SIGNIFICANT
PROBLEMS OF COORDINATION. FIVE DEA AGENTS AND TWO SECRETARIES
ARE CRAMMED INTO FIVE TINY OFFICES--MOST OF THEM
WINDOWLESS--IN CHANCERY BASEMENT. WITH THE ARRIVAL IN
SEPTEMBER OF A SIXTH AGENT AND A THIRD SECRETARY, DEA MUST
MOVE OUT TO NEW QUARTERS. NARCOTICS COORDINATOR IS
PRESENTLY LOCATED ON CHANCERY FOURTH FLOOR IN EXECUTIVE
SUITE, BUT HAS NO RPT NO SECRETARY. TWO AID NARCOTICS
ADVISORS AND ONE LOCAL SECRETARY ARE LOCATED ACROSS TOWN
IN USAID/COLOMBIA OFFICES.

2. IN ORDER ACHIEVE MORE EFFECTIVE PROGRAM COORDINATION TO
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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 06519 142141Z

CONSOLIDATE VARIOUS MISSION ELEMENTS WORKING ON RELATED

ASPECTS OF THE DRUG PROBLEM, AMBASSADOR HAS REQUESTED AND DEA HAS AGREED MAKE OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE IN THEIR NEW LEASED QUARTERS. THESE COMPRISE ENTIRE FLOOR OF NEW BUILDING ABOUT 300 YARDS FROM CHANCERY. SPACE IS AVAILABLE FOR NARCOTICS COORDINATOR, THE SENIOR AID NARCOTICS ADVISOR AND ONE SECRETARY WORKING WITH LATTER TWO OFFICERS.

3. COSTS INVOLVED IN THE PROPOSED MOVE ARE MINIMAL. MAJOR NEW CHARGE WOULD BE THAT INVOLVED IN ADDING A RESIDENT HIRE OR DIRECT-HIRE AMERICAN SECRETARY AT THE FSS-9 LEVEL. DEA HAS SUGGESTED AND THE AMBASSADOR HAS CONCURRED THAT PLACEMENT OF A LOCAL SECRETARY IN THE NEW NARCOTICS OFFICES WOULD PRESENT A SECURITY RISK IN LIGHT OF THE SENSITIVE NATURE OF DEA ACTIVITIES IN COOPERATION WITH COLOMBIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. MOREOVER. MOST OF THE MATERIAL HANDLED ROUTINELY BY THE NARCOTICS COORDINATOR AND AID NARCOTICS ADVISOR IS CLASSIFIED. MISSION THEREFORE REQUESTS A CEILING ADJUSTMENT TO ALLOW EMPLOYMENT OF AN ADDITIONAL AMERICAN SECRETARY.

4. OTHER COSTS OF THE MOVE WOULD INCLUDE FURNISHING FOR THE NARCOTICS ADVISOR'S OFFICE AND FOR THE ADDITIONAL SECRETARY. WE ESTIMATE ONE-TIME COSTS AT DOLLARS 3,000. THE NARCOTICS COORDINATOR-ADVISOR-SECRETARY SHARE OF THE RENTED FLOOR SPACE WOULD COME TO ABOUT DOLLARS 6,000 PER YEAR, WITH HALF OF THIS SUM ASSUMED UNDER DEA STATE SAS WRITE-OFFS. NARCOTICS FUNDING WOULD COVER THE REMAINING \$3,000 (WHICH IS THE ASSUMED COST OF SPACE OCCUPIED BY THE AID NARCOTICS ADVISOR AND ADDITIONAL SECRETARY). THE SECOND AID NARCOTICS ADVISOR WOULD REMAIN IN THE AID BUILDING. AID WILL CONTINUE PROVIDE THIS PERSON'S OFFICE SPACE AND OTHER SERVICES.

5. CONTENTS THIS MESSAGE CONCURRED IN BY AID AND DEA BOGOTA AND EMBASSY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNSELOR. REQUEST EARLY REPLY THIS MESSAGE.
VAKY

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